



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2015**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Jackie Forbes (for Jennifer Becker) – Kane County Division of Transportation, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

Absent: Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA

Staff Present: Jason Navota, Elizabeth Irvin, Kristin Ihnchak, Jacki Murdock, Andres Torres, Louise Yeung, Brian Daly, Berenice Vallecillos, Nora Beck

1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

None.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 7 meeting was made by Martha Dooley, seconded by Patty Werner, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 2016 Meeting Schedule – Nora Beck, CMAP Staff

The ENR committee has been meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, with the exception of no meetings in August or December. After discussion, the committee voiced support for polling the members to see if other options worked better with people's schedules. Nora will send out a doodle poll and confirm the new 2016 schedule via email. The time of the meeting, 9:30 am, will remain the same.

5.0 Selection of LTA Projects – Berenice Vallecillos, CMAP Staff

CMAP recently selected a new slate of projects for the LTA program. Referring to this [memo](#), Vallecillos provided an overview of the applications received and the 22 selected projects. She went into more detail on the projects related to water resources, including the McHenry County Fox River plan, the Metropolitan Planning Council's Great Rivers Chicago program, and then four projects focused on water quality and stormwater management, including a watershed plan for the Lower Salt Creek, two municipal stormwater plans, and a corridor plan. Committee members asked clarifying questions about applicants and the timeline. Projects are in the scoping phase and will likely start after the beginning of the new year; depending on both CMAP staff and municipal capacity.

6.0 Next Regional Plan: Inclusive Growth Strategy Paper – Jacki Murdock and Andres Torres, CMAP Staff

CMAP is exploring new topic areas for the next comprehensive regional plan, one of which is inclusive growth. Inclusive growth aims to ensure that economic growth and prosperity are shared across all segments of the population. Building on CMAP's core transportation and land use planning responsibilities, CMAP will outline and evaluate potential strategies and policy directions that will build towards a more inclusive regional economy. Referring to a powerpoint presentation, Murdock reviewed the overall concept of inclusive growth and past CMAP efforts on this issue. She outlined the work of the strategy paper in three major phases and the composition of the resource group providing guidance on this project. Torres then led the committee in a discussion about what an inclusive region looks like, what are the best ways for CMAP to promote inclusive growth, and what the barriers are to implementation. ENR committee members made a number of comments and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Discussion about overall growth and inclusive growth. Some thought overall growth is needed, then inclusive growth can happen. Others started with the premise that through inclusion, we'll promote economic growth.
- Municipal capacity. Committee members cited instances where the locations that need the most help often lack the staff capacity and/or the matching dollars to work on different projects. Strategies to tackle the disparities between municipalities will be something the strategy paper will review.
- Transportation access to jobs is a critical component; other priorities such as access to public art, education, open space and other environmental issues were also discussed. Committee reflected on the different priorities communities face.
- Municipal strategies. Members shared local approaches to assist vulnerable populations, such as a loan closet through the health department.
- Environmental connection. Green jobs can provide jobs here that also address community priorities. Example of Community Solar, which can help residents take advantage of energy efficient strategies regardless of housing type or ownership. Material reuse is an opportunity.
- U.S. EPA's recently launched [EJSCREEN](#) outlines 10 different criteria as there are different types of justice issues, other ways to identify vulnerability; could be useful to the project team as they understand the geography of this issue.

- Challenges. Municipal preparedness, lending, vacant land/contamination – parcels that have a lot of barriers to redevelopment.
- Location and form of new development; for example, in the Calumet, redevelopment will likely look different from what it was in the past.
- Including the consideration of vulnerable populations in project criteria. A committee member suggested the LTA program include vulnerable populations (participation, analysis, goals, etc) in projects. Another member related that a similar requirement for some grant funding led to coverage of this issue that wouldn't have happened otherwise.
- Stopping the decline. Some areas may not see significant reinvestment, include a component on how to handle this. Reinvestment and infill strategy paper will be covering this issue as well.

7.0 Next Regional Plan: Green Infrastructure Co-Benefits Strategy Paper – Louise Yeung, CMAP Staff

GO TO 2040 emphasized increasing the amount of parkland and access to recreational space within our region's communities. CMAP is exploring an expansion of this topic for the next plan that examines the co-benefits that different types of green infrastructure can provide for health, climate resilience, stormwater management, placemaking, and other environmental and social benefits. Using this powerpoint presentation, Yeung reviewed the purpose of the strategy paper, shared some initial research on peer MPOs, and posed questions to the group to confirm the direction of the project components. The committee discussion focused on these main points:

- Green infrastructure categories. Suggestions on how to break these into groups – by ownership, land use, scale, audience, etc. Changing the last category to Infrastructure ROW may be helpful.
- Potential co-benefits. Economic development, cost savings/avoided public costs, property values, biodiversity, active and passive recreation.

Yeung then asked the group to identify projects that had co-benefits integrated into the conception of the project and to identify which co-benefits were being sought. The committee members offered many suggestions; Yeung then led a discussion on some of the projects listed. The following items were identified as critical to success:

- Education and participation of children
- Intergovernmental cooperation – an initial obstacle, but often because there is a larger cost savings motivating participation.
- Demonstration projects to educate on overall vision.
- Buy in from facility and maintenance stakeholders.
- Understanding short term and long term costs and benefits.

Committee members reflected that there have been many reports on the co-benefits of Green Infrastructure. Maybe local case studies of the different categories can aid the discussion, include an analysis of who did the work and who benefited to highlight the

sharing concept. Committee member also recommended cross checking the Green Infrastructure types with ownership and benefits.

8.0 Other Business.

No other business.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee will be polled over email to determine the 2016 meeting schedule, but the next meeting isn't anticipated until January 2016.

10.0 Adjournment